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Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 4 April 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We would like to refer to the letter dated 26 July 2004 sent to your distinguished predecessor, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, with regard to his report on children and armed conflict (A/58/546-S/2003/1053). We wrote to him that we look forward to the forthcoming report, which we believe should be impartial, accurate, credible, objective and fair, based on reliable and verified information, and expressed our earnest hope that the next report will not apply double standards and arbitrary considerations in dealing with this issue. We have also expressed the hope that the process of preparing the next report will involve, inter alia, Member States, especially those concerned, and United Nations country teams.

In this connection, we would like to refer to resolution 1612 (2005), adopted by the Security Council at its 5235th meeting, held on 26 July 2005. The resolution contained, inter alia, the parameters for the operation of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict. It is pertinent to recall that in paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Council:

> *Takes note* of the action plan presented by the Secretary-General relating to the establishment of a monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict as called for in paragraph 2 of its resolution 1539 (2004) and, in this regard:
>
> (a) Underlines that the mechanism is to collect and provide timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law and on other violations and abuses committed against children affected by armed conflict, and the mechanism will report to the working group to be created in accordance with paragraph 8 of this resolution;

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(b) Underlines further that this mechanism must operate with the participation of and in cooperation with national Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level;

(c) Stresses that all actions undertaken by United Nations entities within the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism must be designed to support and supplement, as appropriate, the protection and rehabilitation roles of national Governments;

(d) Also stresses that any dialogue established under the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism by United Nations entities with non-State armed groups in order to ensure protection for and access to children must be conducted in the context of peace processes where they exist and the cooperation framework between the United Nations and the concerned Government.

In this context, we urge you to ensure that the monitoring and reporting mechanism strictly abides by the provisions contained in resolution 1612 (2005), in particular with regard to the dialogue established under the framework of the monitoring and reporting mechanism between United Nations entities and non-State armed groups and with regard to the context of the peace processes where they exist. We look forward to working together with you and your Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict in promoting and protecting the rights of children, particularly children affected by armed conflict.

We would be grateful if you could kindly have this collective letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kyaw Tint **Swe**
Permanent Representative of the Union of Myanmar
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Madhu Raman **Acharya**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Nepal
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Hilario G. **Davide**, Jr.
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Prasad **Kariyawasam**
Permanent Representative of the Democratic Socialist Republic
of Sri Lanka to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Abdalmahmood Abdalhaleem **Mohamad**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Sudan
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda
to the United Nations